

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**CONSULTING ASSESSMENT ENVIRONMENT**

5 A method, apparatus, and computer program product
for providing a consulting assessment environment.
Consultants may use the environment to define templates
that encode questionnaires and domain knowledge regarding
business practices, as well as reporting criteria to
10 specify the content and format of the assessment results.
Consultants or their clients may use the environment to
automate the process of performing assessments and
generating reports from those assessments. These
assessments may analyze the current state of the
15 business, compare the business's current state with
desired states or with best practices, and perform
risk/benefit and/or cost/benefit analyses, according to
the specifications made in the templates on a real-time
basis for producing immediate assessment results and
20 actions. An information hiding feature is provided to
allow sensitive domain knowledge encoded within the
templates, such as trade secrets, to be made inaccessible
to clients.